

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-03

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJ: MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE RE PANAMA MISSION

REF: ARA/PAN RICHARD HOWARD'S REQUEST

1. PANAMA EDITION MIAMI HERALD AUGUST 17 HAD FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY ROB ELDER TITLED "ARTIME: HUNT TOLD ME OF PANAMA MISSION." ARTICLE REPORTEDLY STEMS FROM TESTIMONY OF MANUEL F. ARTIME BEFORE WATERGATE GRAND JURY. ARTIME, A CUBAN EXILE, IS A MIAMI EXPORTER ALSO KNOWN AS "GOLDEN BOY OF THE CIA." ARTIME'S TESTIMONY ALLEGEDLY REPORTED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HOWARD HUNT AND HUNT'S REQUEST TO HIM IN 1971 TO ORGANIZE A SECRET MISSION TO PANAMA INVOLVING OTHER CUBAN EXILES AND HIMSELF.

2. ACCORDING TO ELDER'S ARTICLE, THE SECRET MISSION INVOLVED ILLEGAL NARCOTICS WHICH HUNT SAID WERE BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE UNITED STATES WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO ARTIME, HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE MISSION AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT ANYONE.

3. THE ARTICLE STATES ARTIME'S DISCLOSURE "IS THE SECOND STORY CONNECTING PANAMA WITH CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE WHITE HOUSE," AND THEN REFERS TO

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JOHN DEAN'S TESTIMONY BEFORE WATERGATE INVESTIGATORS

AND HAS DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE NEWSWEEK REPORT OF DEAN'S TESTIMONY.

4. ARTIME, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, INSISTED THAT HUNT NEVER USE THE WORD "ASSASSINATION" WHEN TALKING TO HIM ABOUT THE MISSION. THE WATERGATE GRAND JURY REPORTEDLY QUESTIONED ARTIME FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS CONCERNING THE PANAMA PLOT.

5. THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT THE NEWSEEK REPORT PROVOKED A CRISIS IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CANAL TREATY.

6. ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINS ALLEGATIONS OF LINKS BETWEEN EX-SENATOR GEORGE SMATHERS AND ARTIME AND CITES A "RELIABLE SOURCE" LINKING ARTIME AND HENRY KISSINGER.

7. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED.
SAYRE

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